

***Amendments to the Specification***

Applicants have amended the "CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS" section on pages one and two of the specification as follows.

- [0001] This application claims ~~priority to~~ the benefit of the following provisional applications:
- [0002] U.S. ~~Patent~~ Provisional Application Serial No. 60/182,470, entitled "Intelligent Silence Suppression," filed February 15, 2000, by Gummalla et al., (~~still pending~~) (incorporated by reference in its entirety herein).
- [0003] U.S. ~~Patent~~ Provisional Application Serial No. 60/247,188 (~~Attorney Docket No. CPH 40892 (BP 1560)~~), entitled "A Local Scheduling Mechanism for Cable Modems," filed November 9, 2000, by Sala et al., (~~still pending~~) (incorporated by reference in its entirety herein).
- [0004] U.S. ~~Patent~~ Provisional Application Serial No. 60/254,415 (~~Attorney Docket No. CPH 40892 (BP 1560.1)~~), entitled "A Local Scheduling Mechanism for Cable Modems," filed December 8, 2000, by Sala et al., (~~still pending~~) (incorporated by reference in its entirety herein).
- [0005] U.S. ~~Patent~~ Provisional Application Serial No. 60/262,201 (~~Attorney Docket No. CPH 41359 (BP 1702)~~), entitled "Voice Scheduling Algorithms," filed January 17, 2001, by Sala et al., (~~still pending~~) (incorporated by reference in its entirety herein).
- [0006] U.S. ~~Patent~~ Provisional Application Serial No. 60/262,203 (~~Attorney Docket No. CPH 41362 (BP 1705)~~), entitled "Concatenation of Requests at CMTS," filed January 17, 2001, by Sala et al., (~~still pending~~) (incorporated by reference in its entirety herein).

[0007] This application ~~claims priority to~~ is a continuation-in-part of the following non-provisional application:

[0008] U.S. Patent Serial No. 09/427,792, entitled "System and Method for Multiplexing Data from Multiple Sources," filed October 27, 1999, by Limb et al., ~~(still pending)~~ now U.S. Patent No. 6,804,251 (incorporated by reference in its entirety herein).

[0009] This application is related to the following non-provisional applications, all having the same filing date as the present application:

[0010] "Method, System and Computer Program Product for Scheduling Upstream Communications", U.S. Patent Serial No. ~~TBD-09/783,404~~ ~~(Attorney Docket No. 1875.0440002)~~, by Gummalla et al. (incorporated by reference in its entirety herein).

[0011] "System And Method For Combining Requests For Data Bandwidth By A Data Provider For Transmission Of Data Over An Asynchronous Communication Medium," U.S. Patent Serial No. ~~TBD-09/783,311~~, ~~(Attorney Docket No. 1875.0450001)~~ by Gummalla et al., (incorporated by reference in its entirety herein).

[0012] ~~"System and Method to Support Constant Bit Rate Services in a Shared Communication System"~~ Voice Architecture For Transmission Over A Shared, Contention Based Medium, U.S. Patent Serial No. ~~TBD~~ 09/785,020, ~~(Attorney Docket No. 40672/LTR/B600)~~ by Gummalla et al. (incorporated by reference in its entirety herein).

[0013] "System and Method for Suppressing Silence in Voice Traffic over an Asynchronous Communication Medium," U.S. Patent Serial No. ~~TBD-09/783,405~~,

(~~Attorney Docket No. 1875.0430001~~) by Gummalla et al., (incorporated by reference in its entirety herein).

Applicants have also corrected the following typographical errors in paragraphs [0016], [0032], [0051] and [0052] of the specification as follows.

[0016] At a high level, DOCSIS comprises a four-way handshake protocol with the following message exchange: (1) request for bandwidth for data transmission by a cable modem, (2) grant of request by the CMTS, (3) upstream slot specification by the CMTS, and (4) subsequent data transmission by the cable modem. Both slot specification and grant messages are encapsulated in a single DOCSIS message known as the ~~Map~~MAP, which in fact includes all feedback from the CMTS to cable modems related to the normal mode of operation of the DOCSIS protocol.

[0032] The CMTS 114 is a headend element that controls the upstream and downstream transfer of data between itself and cable modem 110, as well as any other cable modems to which it may be attached by means of the cable network 112. In embodiments of the present invention, the CMTS 114 comprises DOCSIS-compliant hardware and software that controls the transfer of data between itself and cable modem 110 in accordance with the DOCSIS specifications. Accordingly, the CMTS 114 engages in a four-way handshake protocol with the cable modem 110 that includes the following message exchange: (1) request for bandwidth for data transmission by the cable modem 110, (2) grant of request by the CMTS 114, (3) upstream slot specification by the CMTS 114, and (4) subsequent data transmission by the cable modem 110. Both slot specification and grant messages are encapsulated in a single DOCSIS message known as the ~~Map~~MAP, which in fact includes all

feedback from the CMTS 114 to the cable modem 110 related to the normal mode of operation of the DOCSIS protocol.

[0051] At step 310, the CMTS 114 generates a ~~Map~~MAP that grants the request and provides upstream slot specification to the cable modem 110.

[0052] At step 312, the cable modem 110 receives the grant via the ~~Map~~MAP message from the CMTS 114.